

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A method of attaching an electric conductor to an electrically conductive terminal, the electric conductor comprising a wire and a cladding surrounding the wire, the cladding being of an electrically insulative material, the wire having an exposed end portion extending from an end of the cladding, the method comprising:

placing a sleeve over the electric conductor, the sleeve being of an electrically insulative material;

then positioning the exposed end portion of the wire adjacent the terminal;

then securing the exposed end portion of the wire to a first portion of the terminal in a manner so that the exposed end portion of the wire is mechanically secured to and electrically coupled to the terminal; and

then moving the sleeve along the electric conductor to a position in which a portion of the sleeve is adjacent the terminal and a portion of the terminal is left exposed outside the sleeve.

2. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the step of securing the exposed end portion of the wire to the first portion of the terminal comprises crimping the first portion of the terminal in a manner so that the exposed end portion of the wire is mechanically secured to and electrically coupled to the terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the step of crimping the first portion of the terminal occurs before the step of moving the sleeve along the electric conductor.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the step of securing the sleeve to the second portion of the terminal comprises crimping the second portion of the terminal in a manner so that the sleeve is mechanically secured to the terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein:
the step of securing the exposed end portion of the wire to the first portion of the terminal comprises crimping the first portion of the terminal in a manner so that the exposed end portion of the wire is mechanically secured to and electrically coupled to the terminal; and

the step of securing the sleeve to the second portion of the terminal comprises crimping the second portion of the terminal in a manner so that the sleeve is mechanically secured to the terminal.

6. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 5 wherein the step of crimping the first portion of the terminal occurs before the step of crimping the second portion of the terminal.

7. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the step of moving the sleeve along the electric conductor comprises sliding the sleeve along the electric conductor to the position in which the portion of the sleeve is adjacent the terminal.

8. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the sleeve completely circumscribes the conductor.

9. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the sleeve is sufficiently long such that the sleeve covers the end of the cladding when the sleeve is secured to the second portion of the terminal.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the first portion of the terminal comprises a first pair of tabs and the second portion of the terminal comprises a second pair of tabs, and wherein:

the step of securing the exposed end portion of the wire to the terminal comprises crimping the first pair of tabs in a manner so that at least one of the tabs of the first pair of tabs engages the exposed end portion of the wire; and

the step of securing the sleeve to the terminal comprises crimping the second pair of tabs in a manner so that at least one of the tabs of the second pair of tabs engages the sleeve.

11. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the tabs of the first pair of tabs are spaced from one another before being crimped and wherein the tabs of the second pair of tabs are spaced from one another before being crimped.

12. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the terminal comprises an elongate channel sized for receiving at least portion of the electrical conductor and at least a portion of the sleeve, and wherein:

the step of positioning the exposed end portion of the wire adjacent the terminal comprises positioning the exposed end portion of the wire in the elongate channel; and

the step of moving the sleeve comprises moving the sleeve to a positioning in which a portion of the sleeve is in the elongate channel.

13. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the electric conductor is an electric conductor of an electro-motive apparatus, and wherein the step of placing the sleeve over the electric conductor comprises placing the sleeve over the electric conductor of the electro-motive apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the electric conductor is an electric conductor of an electric motor, and wherein the step of placing the sleeve over the electric conductor comprises placing the sleeve over the electric conductor of the electric motor.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of moving the sleeve along the electric conductor comprises:
moving the sleeve along the electric conductor to a position in which a portion of the sleeve is in contact with the terminal.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising the step of securing the sleeve to a second portion of the terminal in a manner so that the sleeve is mechanically secured to the terminal.

17. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of crimping the first portion of the terminal occurs before the step of moving the sleeve along the electric conductor.

18. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the step of moving the sleeve along the electric conductor comprises moving the sleeve along the electric

conductor to a position in which a first portion of the sleeve is in contact with the terminal and a second portion of the sleeve covers the end of the cladding.

19. (Currently Amended) A The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising securing the sleeve to a second portion of the terminal in a manner so that the sleeve is mechanically secured to the terminal.